

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 11620 250646Z

22-12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /024 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2134

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, DM, NI

SUBJECT: ABEL ZINSOU KIDNAP ATTEMPT

1. NOVEMBER 24 DAILY TIMES HEADLINES ABORTIVE ATTEMPT BY DAHOMEAN AGENTS FORCEABLY ABDUCT DAHOMEAN DIPLOMAT, ABEL ZINSOU, IDENTIFIED AS YOUNGER BROTHER EX-PRESIDENT DR. EMILE ZINSOU. ACCORDING TO PRESS, FIVE HEFTY DAHOMEAN SECURITY NIN APPEARED AT ZINSOU'S SURULERE RESIDENCE THIS WEEKEND WITH ORDERS SEARCH HIS OFFICE AND HOME AND TAKE HIM BACK DAHOMEY "DEAD OR ALIVE." ABDUCTORS REPORTEDLY ALSO GRILLED ZINSOU AND HIS WIFE ON NAMES PEOPLE SUPPOSEDLY PLOTTING OVERTHROW KEREKOU REGIME. PARTY THEN SET OFF FOR DAHOMEY WITH ZINSOU DRIVING OWN CAR ACCOMPANIED BY THREE SECURITY MEN FOLLOWED BY DAHOMEAN "PRESIDENTIAL" MERCEDES. ON BADAGRI ROAD ZINSOU APPARENTLY MANAGED DRIVE HIS CAR INTO DITCH AND ESCAPE INTO BUSH. PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ZINSOU AND HIS WIFE NOT STATED BUT STORY INFERS THEY ALIVE AND STILL IN NIGERIA.

2. COMMENT. FMG AND LOCAL PRESS HAVE IN RECENT PAST STUDIOUSLY IGNORED WILD CARRYINGS-ON NIGERIA'S WESTERN NEIGHBOR. WHETHER THIS AFFAIR, REPRESENTING AS IT DOES A RATHER BLATANT HAULING OF DAHOMEAN DIRTY LAUNDRY INTO NIGERIA, CAUSES FMG PROTEST REMAINS TO BE SEEN. COPY NEWS
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 11620 250646Z

REPORT BEING POUCHED COTONOU.

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Message Attributes

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